

## Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 EUR-25 RSR-01 AID-20 IGA-02

/153 W

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P R 271455Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4767

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JIDDA 3684

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: SISCO INTERVIEW IN JIDDA'S AL-MADINA, AUG 26

FOLLOWING IS FULL TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW OF ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY SISCO BY AL-MANDIN'S AHMAD MOHAMMAD MAHMOUD, WHICH  
APPEARED FRONT PAGE AUG 26 ISSUE:

1. QUOTE TO OPEN WIDE THE DIPLOMATIC DOORS BEFORE THE  
M.E. CRISIS'. THIS WAS THE ESSENCE OF THE CALL MADE BY  
MR. JOSEPH SISCO DURING HIS MEETING WITH THIS NEWSPAPER'S  
CORRESPONDENT AT HIS OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUILDING IN WASHINGTON.

2. QUOTE MR. SISCO DID NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY IN HIS  
REPLY TO AL MADINA TO EXPRESS HIS DISSATISFACTION OVER  
THE NO-PEACE-NO-WAR SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, DESPITE  
THE LAPSE OF THREE YEARS SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE BECAME  
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EFFECTIVE BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE OCCUPYING JEWISH FORCES

ON THE SUEZ CANAL FRONT. HOWEVER, MR. SISCO DIDN'T VIEW THE SITUATION AS SATISFACTORY, AND TALKING ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, HE THINKS THE SITUATION WILL NOT BE SATISFACTORY IN THE FUTURE UNLESS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CRISIS HAS BEEN SOLVED ON THE BASIS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

3. QUOTE AMERICA IS NOT SATISFIED OVER THE RECENT DEADLOCK PREVAILING IN THE AREA; THEREFORE, SHE IS LEADING ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION NO. 242.

4. QUOTE MR. SISCO WENT ON TO SAY THE USG HAS HAD CERTAIN THOUGHTS ABOUT SOLVING THE M.E. (CRISIS). IN OUR CONCERN TO FIND A JUST SOLUTION, WE SEEK TO PLAY AN IMPARTIAL ROLE BETWEEN THE TWO CONCERNED PARTIES. IF AMERICA IS GOING TO MAINTAIN ANY INFLUENCE TOWARDS THIS END, IT WILL NOT BE OTHER THAN BY HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS. WHEN I SAY NEGOTIATIONS I MEAN, OF COURSE, INDIRECT NEGOTIATION, BECAUSE THIS KIND OF A NEGOTIATION IS ACCEPTED BY EGYPT AS WELL AS BY THE JEWISH ENTITY. WE SUPPORT THE SC RESOLUTION WITH ITS CONSTRUCTIVE AMBIGUITY BECAUSE BOTH SIDES ACCEPTED IT AS A BASE FOR WORK, EVEN THOUGH THEY GREATLY DIFFER OVER ITS INTERPRETATION...WE DO NOT SEE THAT THIS PROBLEM OF UNDERSTANDING THE SC RESOLUTION IS SOMETHING NEW. IT HAS BEEN EXISTING SINCE 1967. THERE MUST BE INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

5. QUOTE CITING THE SAUDI-AMERICAN RELATIONS, MR. SISCO SAID 'I BELIEVE THAT THESE RELATIONS ARE NOT CONFINED TO THE OIL SPHERE BUT EXTEND TO INCLUDE SEVERAL OTHER AREAS. THERE ARE MUTUAL INTERESTS BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AND THIS IS EVIDENCED BY THE SAUDI-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY, AS THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE STABILITY OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO OFFER AID IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY WHEREVER THE KINGDOM SEES THAT ITS SECURITY JEOPARDIZED. I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL SPHERES OF RELATIONS WHICH OUGHT TO BE DEEPENED...AMERICANS ARE INTERESTED

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IN DEVELOPING SAUDI INDUSTRY AND THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN THE INVESTMENT OF SAUDI MONEY IN THE U.S. WE ARE INTERESTED ALSO IN JOINT AMERICAN-SAUDI VENTURES.'

6. QUOTE SISCO CALLED UPON THE CONCERNED PARTNERS TO CLOSE THIS ERA OF 'LOST OPPORTUNITIES,' AND TO EXPLOIT THE TOUR OF MR. WALDHEIM TO THE AREA. MR. SISCO ADDED 'I DO NOT WANT TO PREDICT WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, BUT I

HOPE IT WILL BE PROFITABLE...BOTH SIDES HAVE INVITED HIM TO VISIT THEIR (RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES) AND HAVE DECIDED TO RECEIVE HIM. I HOPE IT WILL OPEN WIDE DIPLOMATIC DOORS IN THE AREA.'

7. QUOTE REPLYING TO A QUESTION, MR. SISCO DISCLOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE PHASE IN NIXON-BREZHNEV COMMUNIQUE STARTING THAT 'ANY M.E. SOLUTION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE' WAS AN AMERICAN INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT WHAT THE U.S. MEANT BY THAT WAS THAT 'ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST SATISFY THE STATES CONCERNED IN THE ISSUE. IN OUR OPINION, WE ALSO THINK THAT THERE CANNOT BE A LASTING SOLUTION UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS' LEGITIMATE RIGHTS ARE MET. THAT PHRASE DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE AGREED ON HOW THE PROBLEM SHALL BE SOLVED, OR THAT WE AGREED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE AS RECENTLY CALLED FOR BY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. WE HAVE KEPT SILENT REGARDING KING HUSSEIN'S PROJECT FOR ESTABLISHING A UNITED ARAB KINGDOM BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE FORM OF GOVT WHICH MAY SATISFY THE PALESTINIANS IS UP TO THE ARABS.'

8. QUOTE REPLYING TO A QUESTION, MR. SISCO SAID THAT 'WE HAVE HAD CONTACTS, FROM TIME TO TIME, WITH THE PALESTINIANS, BUT NOT FOR EXAMPLE WITH YASIR ARAFAT.'

9. QUOTE HE CONCLUDED HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE M.E. CRISIS BY SAYING THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE THE NO-PEACE-NO-WAR SITUATION CAN CONTINUE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO DOES NOT SEE AN EXPLOSION OF THE SITUATION AS IMMINENT. END QUOTE.  
THACHER

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